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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/567,517	09/08/2006	Giorgio Figura	93099001	9284
46507 7590 11/18/2008 HONEYWELL TURBO TECHNOLOGIES 23326 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD, SUITE #200 TORRANCE, CA 90505				
EXAMINER YOUNGER, SEAN JERRARD				
ART UNIT 3745		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 11/18/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/567,517

Applicant(s)

FIGURA ET AL.

Examiner

SEAN J. YOUNGER

Art Unit

3745

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10 May 2006

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 5-9 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold [U.S. 4,726,744] in view of Klass [U.S. 3,707,750]. Arnold discloses a variable nozzle device comprising an annular nozzle passage formed by two opposing wall members [column 4, lines 4-8] and vanes (34) attached to shafts (38) extending in the nozzle passages which are rotatably supported. Arnold does not disclose that the vane airfoils are formed by a sheet metal contour, but discloses that methods other than those disclosed can be employed in their manufacture [column 3, lines 61-65]. Klass teaches that vane airfoil shapes can be made by wrapping strips of sheet metal (2, 4) so as to form a loop [figure 5; column 5, lines 1-11]. The ends (12, 13) of the loop are then

joined by welding at the trailing edge [column 5, lines 11-15]. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the variable nozzle device of Arnold to include vanes made from a sheet metal forming process, as taught by Klass, because the modification amounts to a synthesis of known prior art elements which could have been made by one of ordinary skill with predictable results.

4. It is noted that claims 2-4 are product-by-process claims, and even though they are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product in the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process. See: *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). In this case, both the product and the process are found in the prior art.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6. The patent to Stalker [2,787,049] discloses an airfoil shape formed from sheet metal, wrapped into a loop, and spot welded at the trailing edge.

7. The patent to Xu et al. [U.S. 6,129,257] discloses an airfoil shape formed from sheet metal, wrapped into a loop, and brazed at the trailing edge.

8. Patents to Arnold et al. [U.S. 6,269,642], Yoshimura et al. [U.S. 6,471,470] and Finger et al. [U.S. 6,536,214] disclose variable geometry turbochargers with variable vanes mounted in annular nozzle passages between two opposing wall members.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SEAN J. YOUNGER whose telephone number is (571)270-3763. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00 EST, Alt. Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look can be reached on 571-272-4820. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sean J. Younger/
Examiner, Art Unit 3745

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/Edward K. Look/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3745